

28 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR : Admiral Stansfield Turner
FROM :
SUBJECT : Civil Defense and the New York Talk

1. I have read the 16 March 1977, The Soviet Civil Defense Program. Regarding the question of whether or not you should release this information and is the New York talk the right forum, my answers are:

- Yes, I'd release it - including the 7% figure (or some alternative like "under 10%"). As it stands, the statement is very general and lacks the interest which some hard information would give it.
- The New York talk is probably as good a public forum as any. Your talk would really be about the objectivity of intelligence estimating and your efforts to improve it. Civil defense is just the example.

2. However, you should subordinate the Civil Defense example to your remarks on objectivity on a ratio of about 20-80. As it now stands, the NFIB statement has the flavor of a complaint/pitch for the U.S. to do more in the Civil Defense area ("Soviet Union is currently making a far more substantial effort...") This I don't think you want to do.

3. Is this the best topic to use as your first public revelation? The public is far less aware of the need to upgrade estimate objectivity and that undoubtedly falls well below most of their concerns regarding intelligence activity. Nor is it the area where public credibility has been lost and where you should - in my opinion - concentrate almost exclusively at this point. The morality/ethics/standards fears should be assuaged first. Once you have made clear the message that guidelines/rules have been established and are being enforced - then, within that framework there will be interest in the quality of work being done.

Very Respectfully,

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REDESIGNATION OF COMPONENT AND
ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT TO KEY POSITION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Effective 28 March 1977, the Office of the Assistant to the DCI is redesignated the Public Affairs Office. Effective the same date, Mr. Herbert E. Hetu is appointed Assistant for Public Affairs to the DCI.

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER
Admiral, U. S. Navy
Director of Central Intelligence

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